

## Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method to facilitate network-based shopping comprising;
  - 2 facilitating a communication between a network-based auction facility and a seller
  - 3 whereby the seller authorizes a bidder to bid on an offering offered for sale by the seller;
  - 4 and
  - 5 automatically recording the bidder as authorized to bid on the offering responsive to
  - 6 the communication.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network-based auction facility prevents the
- 2 bidder from bidding on the offering without the authorization from the seller.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the bidder and the seller have buying and selling
- 2 privileges respectively with the network-based auction facility.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication includes a seller request to
- 2 authorize bidders to bid on the offering.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication includes allowing the seller to  
2 add and to remove an authorization restriction multiple times during an auction of the  
3 offering.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the communication includes a bidder request to the  
2 seller to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1 7. The method of claim 4, including providing access to the seller to the bidder's  
2 bidding history and profile information thereby to assist the seller in determining whether  
3 to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the bidder's bidding history and profile information  
2 is provided by the network-based auction facility.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the item includes a high profile offering.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the network-based auction facility includes the  
2 auction web site.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein an authorization restriction requirement is  
2 displayed on the offering web page.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein a seller vetting process information is displayed on  
2 a personalized web page of the seller linked to a web page of the offering.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the seller authorizes only a predetermined currency  
2 to be used to purchase the offering offered for sale by the seller.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the seller authorizes a predetermined geographic  
2 area, and wherein a bidder within the predetermined geographic area is allowed by the  
3 network-based auction facility to bid on the offering offered for sale by the seller and a  
4 further bidder outside the predetermined geographic area is prevented from bidding on  
5 the offering.

1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 facilitating a communication between a network-based shopping facility and a seller  
3 whereby the seller authorizes a buyer to buy an offering offered for sale by the seller; and  
4 automatically recording the buyer as authorized to buy the offering responsive to  
5 the communication.

1 17. A system to facilitate network-based shopping comprising:  
2 a communications module to facilitate a communication between a network-based  
3 auction facility and a seller; and  
4 an authorization module to facilitate a seller authorization of a bidder to bid on an  
5 offering via the communication.

1        18.    The system of claim 17, wherein the authorization module is to prevent the  
2    bidder from bidding on the offering without the authorization from the seller.

1        19.    The system of claim 17, wherein the bidder and the seller have buying and selling  
2    privileges respectively with the network based auction facility.

1        20.    The system of claim 17, wherein the communication includes a seller request to  
2    authorize bidders to bid on the offering

1        21.    The system of claim 17, wherein the seller can add and remove the pre-approval  
restriction multiple times during the auction of the offering.

1        22.    The system of claim 20, wherein the communication includes a bidder request to the  
seller to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1        23.    The system of claim 20, wherein the communications module is to provide access to  
2    the seller to the bidder's bidding history and profile information thereby to assist the seller  
3    in determining whether to authorize the bidder to bid on the offering.

1        24.    The system of claim 23, wherein the bidder's bidding history and profile information  
2    is provided by the network-based auction facility.

1        25.    The system of claim 17, wherein the offering includes a high profile offering.

1        26.    The system of claim 17, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1 27. The system of claim 26, wherein the network-based auction facility includes the  
2 auction web site.

1 28. The system of claim 26, wherein an authorization restriction requirement is  
2 displayed on the offering web page.

1 29. The system of claim 17, wherein a seller vetting process information is displayed on  
2 a personalized web page of the seller linked to a web page of the offering.

1 30. The system of claim 17, wherein the seller authorizes only a predetermined currency  
2 to be used to purchase the offering offered for sale by the seller.

1 31. The system of claim 17, wherein the seller authorizes a predetermined geographic  
2 area, and wherein a bidder within the predetermined geographic area is allowed by the  
3 network-based auction facility to bid on the offering offered for sale by the seller and a  
4 further bidder outside the predetermined geographic area is prevented from bidding on  
5 the offering.

1 32. The system of claim 17, further comprising:  
2 a communications module to facilitate a communication between a network-based  
3 shopping facility and a seller; and  
4 an authorization module to facilitate a seller authorization of a buyer to buy an  
5 offering via the communication.

1       33. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions to translate  
2       instructions, the set instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor  
3       to perform a method to facilitate network-based shopping comprising:

4               facilitating a communication between a network-based auction facility and a seller

5       whereby the seller authorizes a bidder to bid on an offering offered for sale by the seller;

6       and

7               automatically recording the bidder as authorized to bid on the offering responsive to

8       the communication.

1       34. A system to facilitate network-based shopping comprising:

2               means for facilitating a communication between a network-based auction facility

3       and a seller; and

4               means for facilitating a seller authorization of a bidder to bid on an offering via the

5       communication.